GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:281
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
NATIONAL WATER POLICY
Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare a new National Water Policy after declaring water as a national property;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has also expressed its concern about the increasing shortage of water in the country and has suggested that the State Governments may amend their laws for declaring water resources a national property; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 281 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.03.07 REGARDING NATIONAL WATER POLICY.

(a) No, Sir. The National Water Policy − 2002 (NWP) addresses the various issues related to development and management of water resources. The NWP states that water is a prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset and that planning, development and management of water resources need to be governed by national perspectives.

(b) The Planning Commission in its Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007) has expressed that the average availability is likely to fall below the water-stress level in the near future. The publication titled "Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth − An Approach to the 11th Five Year Plan" of the Planning Commission has also discussed about criticality of water in rainfed and other areas. The report states that water conservation and ground water management is critical for these areas and need much more focused attention. However, Planning Commission has not made any suggestion that the State Governments may amend their laws for declaring water resources a national property.

(c) Does not arise.